## Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

## Listing of Claims:

1.      (Currently amended) A method for implementing a conversation between a client and a service on a conversation controller, comprising:

  the conversation controller receiving a conversation information from the service, the conversation information specifying a structure of conversations supported by the service;

  the conversation controller receiving a message on behalf of the service;

  the conversation controller determining a current state of the conversation;

  the conversation controller using the received conversation information to determineing valid input document types for the current state;

  the conversation controller verifying whether the message is of one of the valid input document types for the current state; and

  the conversation controller dispatching the message to appropriate service entry points provided by the service, until the service produces an output document of a valid output document type.


2.      (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein if messages of invalid input documents types are received, further comprising the conversation controller raising exceptions.


3.      (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein if no valid output document is produced by the service, further comprising the conversation controller raising exceptions.


4.      (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising the conversation controller formatting and returning to the client the output document in a form appropriate to the client.

5.    (Currently amended)  The method of claim 1, further comprising:

the conversation controller calculating a new state of the conversation from the valid output document type;

the conversation controller determining new input document types that are valid in the new state; and

the conversation controller prompting for the new input document types that are valid in the new state.

6.    (Cancelled).

7.    (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising the conversation controller maintaining a "state" of the conversation.

8.    (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising the conversation controller retrieving a "state" of the conversation from the service.

9.    (Currently amended)  The method of claim 1, further comprising:

the conversation controller calculating a new state of the conversation from the valid output document type; and

the conversation controller invoking client methods that can produce new input documents that are valid in the new state.

10.    (Currently amended) The method of claim 9, further comprising the conversation controller sending the new input documents to the service.

11.    (Currently amended) A conversation controller that implements a conversation between a client and a service, comprising:

a processor;

an incoming context handler executing on said processor, said incoming context handler that receives a message on behalf of the service,

wherein the incoming context handler is capable of parsing the message and extracting a document type of the message;

an interaction handler <u>executing on said processor and</u> coupled to the incoming context handler and capable of identifying a current state<u>,</u> <s>conversation specifications</s> and the document type of the message <s>from the message</s><u>and validates the document type based on a conversation specification received from the service</u>; and

a dispatch handler <s>coupled to the interaction handler</s><u>executing on said processor</u>, wherein the dispatch handler parses the conversation specification and forwards the message to service entry points of the service.

12. (Original) The conversation controller of claim 11, wherein the interaction handler validates if the document type of the message is valid for the current state.

13. (Original) The conversation controller of claim 11, wherein the interaction handler calculates a new state of the conversation and new valid document types for the new state from a response returned by the service.

14. (Original) The conversation controller of claim 13, further comprising an outgoing content handler capable of constructing an outgoing message that is valid for the new state, wherein the outgoing content handler returns the outgoing message to the client.

15. (Original) The conversation controller of claim 11, further comprising a client interaction handler that dispatches a reply from the service to the client and forwards a response from the client to the service.

16.     (Currently amended) A computer readable medium comprising instructions for implementing a conversation between a client and a service, the instructions comprising:

receiving a conversation specification from the service, the conversation specification specifying a structure of conversations supported by the service;

receiving a message on behalf of the service;

determining a current state of the conversation;

using the conversation specification, determining valid input document types for the current state;

verifying whether the message is of one of the valid input document types for the current state; and

dispatching the message to appropriate service entry points of the service, until the service produces an output document of a valid output document type.

17.     (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 16, further comprising formatting and returning to the client the output document in a form appropriate to the client.

18.     (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 16, further comprising:

calculating a new state of the conversation from the valid output document type;

determining new input document types that are valid in the new state; and

prompting for the new input document types that are valid in the new state.

19.     (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 16, wherein if messages of invalid document types are received, further comprising raising exceptions.

20.    (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 16, wherein if no valid output document is produced by the service, further comprising raising exceptions.

21.    (New) The method of claim 1 further comprising the conversation controller receiving a conversation specification from the client defining the valid interactions with the client.

22.    (New) The computer readable medium of claim 16 wherein the instructions further comprise receiving a conversation specification from the client defining the valid interactions with the client.